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Housing Committee
February 28, 2023 Public Hearing

Testimony in Support of HB 6633

An Act Concerning a Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans for Municipalities
to Increase Affordable Housing

Submitted by:

Gina Calabro, Executive Director/CEO
AIA Connecticut, 370 James Street, New Haven, CT 06513

Dear Representative Luxenberg, Senator Moore, Representative Scott, Senator Sampson,
Representative Khan, Senator Lesser and Members of the Housing Committee:

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, a professional association
of over 1,500 members, wishes to express our support of H.B. 6633.

In 2017, the American Institute of Architects declared through a resolution that access to
housing is a "fundamental right." In doing so, we recognize the importance of addressing
the housing crisis and its impacts on social equity as one of the most difficult challenges
facing America's policymakers and shapers of the built environment.

The lack of affordable and safe housing results in many workers not having access to job
markets within their own communities, lower income households are being forced to locate
farther from places of employment and thereby encouraging blight, urban sprawl, and
traffic congestion.

Architects are at the forefront of the challenges inherent to providing safe, healthy and
sustainable housing to all. The AIA advocates for governmental policies, programs, and
incentives to promote the design, construction, renovation, rehabilitation, preservation, and
stabilization of safe, healthy, affordable, sustainable and disaster resistant housing within
the means of all people.

More than 137,000 people in CT are struggling to secure a safe, affordable home in a
thriving, supportive community. Thousands of families simply want to live in a
neighborhood full of opportunities that help their children thrive.

With the widening and deepening affordable housing crisis, we need to build equitable
housing and integrate communities. We support policies that promote prosperous, healthy,
and livable communities—places where housing, retail, schools, and employment are
accessible to all.

As such, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects requests the
committees support for H.B. 6633.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony. Thank you for your consideration.